

Belgians, hosts make toast

JANUARY 18, 1978



A TOAST WAS MADE to the health of some friendly visitors from Namur, Belgium, at the Al Vandertie "Cabaret" when this picture was taken last week. The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Armand Burnonville (third and fifth from left in photo) whom the members of the Peninsula Belgian-American Club had met on a previous trip to Europe.

Burnonville is the owner of a fleet of buses and taxi cabs in Namur, and was in Algoma in part to prepare for the Belgian Club's trip to Belgium on Sept. 4. He had just spent a week visiting relatives in Lafayette, Louisiana, and had been named an honorary citizen of that town during his stay there.

The Belgians had the experience of coming to America on this trip aboard the Concorde, the famous "outlawed" jetliner which flies at the supersonic speed of Mach 2 (1350 mph) and cruises at an altitude of 50,000 to 60,000 feet. Despite the complaints of many about the noise, Armand said it

was "very, very quiet" as well as being "the ultimate experience in travel." The Burnonvilles made the trip from Paris to New York in 3½ hours.

Being in the business of travel, Burnonville should recognize quality in that area. When asked about buses, the Namur native said he had seen none in the United States that had matched up to his. Part of the reason was the Mercedes Benz engine used in his coaches.

Although the visitor liked the hospitality of the Vandertie's tavern, he did not think the beer was as good as it was in the cabarets in his home country. But "the people are the same everywhere."

Shown in the picture from the left are Liz Vandertie, Mrs. Harris Dhuey, Armand, Al Vandertie, Mrs. Burnonville, Harris Dhuey, Elmer Gigot and Roger DeVillers.

— Record-Herald Photo